

Serial No. 10/779,892
Docket No. 51491.0117

Amendments To Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims

1. (previously presented) A system for facilitating a change in distance between objects, said system including:
 - a head component having cutting threads, said head component inserted into, and terminating within, one of said objects;
 - a wire having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said wire mates with said head component, said wire having a first interface along at least a portion of said wire, wherein said first interface includes a sawtooth configuration; and,
 - a cap mating with said second end of said wire, said cap having a second interface component including an inverse sawtooth configuration on an inner surface of said cap such that said cap is configured to translate along said wire with certain of said inverse sawteeth sliding over certain of said sawteeth.
2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said head component includes a tip, cutting threads and fastening threads.
3. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said head component includes a tool attachment which mates with a tool head.
4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap is configured to translate along said wire in only one direction.
5. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap includes threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said object.
6. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap includes threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said object surface, and wherein said cap includes a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said object surface.

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7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap includes a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.
8. (original) The system of claim 1 further including a tensioner for applying tension to said wire.
9. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein said tensioner includes a cannulated rod which receives said wire, said tensioner further includes gears having a third interface component which mates with said ~~second~~ first interface component of said wire to apply tension to said wire.
10. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein said tensioner includes a gauge to determine the amount of tension.
11. (previously presented) A system for the fixation of a bone fracture having a first bone portion and a second bone portion, said system including:
 - a head component having cutting threads, said head component inserted into, and terminating within, said first bone portion;
 - a flexible wire having a first end, and a second end ~~and a middle wire portion, wherein said flexible wire is at least one of bendable without the use of tools and is able to be cut with a wire cutter, and~~ wherein said first end of said flexible wire is affixed to said head component ~~and said middle wire portion extends across an interface between said first bone portion and said second bone portion; and,~~
 - a cap which mates, without rotation of said cap, with said second end of said flexible wire by translating along said flexible wire while an inside surface of said cap restricts ~~restricting~~ reverse translational movement to apply pressure between said first bone portion and said second bone portion.
12. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said flexible wire extends through said a second surface of said bone and said cap mates with said flexible wire against said second surface of said bone to exert tension on said flexible wire, thereby compressing said a first surface and said second surfaces surface of said bone against each other.
13. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein a surgical plate is mates

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with said second surface of said bone.

14. (currently amended) A cap device having an outside surface and an inside surface, said inside surface including an interface component and said outside surface including cutting threads, wherein said cap device receives a flexible wire having a first end and a second end, wherein said flexible wire is at least one of bendable without the use of tools and is able to be cut with a wire cutter, and wherein said first end of said flexible wire is affixed to a head component, said flexible wire having a first interface along at least a portion of said flexible wire, wherein said first interface includes a sawtooth configuration, wherein said head component attaches to a first object, said cap device mates with said second end of said flexible wire, said cap having a second interface component including an inverse sawtooth configuration on an inner surface of said cap such that said cap is configured to translate along said flexible wire with certain of said inverse sawteeth sliding over certain of said sawteeth.

15. (previously presented) The cap device of claim 14, wherein said cap includes a substantially flat top surface to minimize said cap from protruding above the surface of a second object after said cap is inserted into said second object.

16. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein said cap includes a center hole for receiving a wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

17. (currently amended) A method for facilitating a change in distance between a first and second surface, said method including:

providing a head component ~~mated with~~ affixed to a flexible wire having a first interface component, wherein said flexible wire is at least one of bendable without the use of tools and is able to be cut with a wire cutter;

inserting said head component having cutting threads into, and terminating within, said first surface, wherein said head component cuts into said first surface with said cutting threads;

~~extending said flexible wire into said second surface such that a middle portion of said flexible wire crosses an interface between said first and second surface;~~ and,

translating a cap, without rotation of said cap, over an end portion of said flexible wire within said second surface, wherein said cap and head component are separated by a distance, and wherein said cap has ~~having~~ a second interface component over said first interface

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component of said flexible wire such that said second interface component on an inside surface of said cap restricts reverse translational movement and applies pressure between said first and second surface.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein said inserting step includes mating a drill over a driver head of said head component to facilitate drilling said head component into said ~~bone~~ first surface.

19. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said head component includes cutting threads and mating threads such that said inserting step includes cutting new threads into said object using said cutting threads and mating said new threads with said mating threads.

20. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein excess wire beyond said cap is removed.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further including exerting pressure between said first and second surfaces by exerting tension on said flexible wire.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap further includes threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap includes a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

23. (withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap is further configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire, an additional opening, and a cut in a planar surface of said cap which extends to from said center hole to said additional opening for facilitating expansion of said cap.

24. (withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap is further configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from

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said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire, an additional opening and a cut in a planar surface of said cap which extends to from said additional opening to said outside surface of said cap for facilitating expansion of said cap.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said wire is a flexible wire.

26. (withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap is configured with a spring to apply pressure to said cap.